

# **HONORARY NAMING OF SR 16 NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL**

## **BRIEFING PAPER**

Prepared for the  
September 2003 Transportation Commission Meeting

Prepared by: Carrie Sunstrom, Landscape Designer, Olympic Region Roadside and Site Development Office

Reviewed by: Bob Barnes, Olympic Region Landscape Architect, Roadside and Site Development Office

Approved by: Randall Hain, Olympic Region Administrator

Approved by: John Conrad, Asst. Secretary for Engineering and Regional Operations

### **PURPOSE:**

To consider a resolution requesting that the SR 16 pedestrian and bicycle trail be named in honor of deceased Pierce County resident, Scott Pierson.

### **ACTION/OUTCOME:**

Passage of Resolution.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Both the Pierce County Council and the Tacoma City Council passed resolutions on August 12, 2003, requesting the Washington Transportation Commission to name the trail that runs from Sprague Avenue to Stone Drive on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the "Scott Pierson Trail", with the segment that runs from Sprague Avenue and Snake Lake bridge to be named "Scott's Way".

The County and City resolutions had broad based support throughout the community. The resolutions were endorsed by the following groups and organizations: the Tacoma Wheelman's Club, Bicycle Alliance of Washington, Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition, the South Tacoma and West End Neighborhood Councils, Tacoma Greenways Task Force, Metro Parks Board of Commissioners, Community Council of Washington, Pierce County Safe Kids Coalition, University of Puget Sound, City of Tacoma Economic Development Department.

Mr. Pierson, a City of Tacoma Urban Planner for 23 years, devoted his life work to promoting non-motorized transportation alternatives in urban areas. He was an avid cyclist and environmentalist who lived his convictions by bicycling to and from work every day. Mr. Pierson received the Washington State Department of Transportation's Footprints and Bike Tracks lifetime achievement award in 2001.

## **DISCUSSION:**

In addition to working on many non-motorized transportation plans and projects throughout Tacoma, Scott Pierson advocated strongly for 17 years for the Washington State Department of Transportation to follow through with a 1977 Environmental Impact Statement commitment to build a pedestrian and bicycle trail along State Route 16.

Mr. Pierson worked closely with Washington State Department of Transportation designers to create an alignment that would provide contiguous non-motorized travel from Sprague Avenue in Tacoma to Stone Drive in Gig Harbor. The SR 16 trail integrates with a city trail system that Mr. Pierson designed and named the Gentle Ways Network and with the existing Cushman Trail in Gig Harbor. Together, these linked trails provide a significant regional trail system.

Largely due to Mr. Pierson's devotion to providing non-motorized travel alternatives, the public will be able to enjoy safe and convenient travel from Sprague Avenue in Tacoma to Stone Drive in Pierce County and many points in between, by foot and by bicycle.

Scott Pierson died on June 17, 2001, while commuting home from work on his bicycle. He leaves with us a legacy of public service through his work as both a landscape architect and urban planner.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Passage of Resolution which requests naming the trail that runs from Sprague Avenue to Stone Drive on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the "Scott Pierson Trail," and the segment that runs from Sprague Avenue to Snake Lake bridge, "Scott's Way".

For further information, contact: Carrie Sunstrom, Landscape Designer 704-3249 or Bob Barnes, Olympic Region Landscape Architect 357-2733

RESOLUTION NO. 655

WHEREAS, City of Tacoma Urban Planner Scott Pierson devoted his 23 year career in public service to creating a functional and attractive nonmotorized transportation system for pedestrians and bicyclists in urban Tacoma and,

WHEREAS, Scott Pierson passionately advocated for 17 years for the Washington State Department of Transportation to fulfill a 1977 Environmental Impact Statement commitment to build a pedestrian and bicycle trail along State Route 16 and,

WHEREAS, Scott Pierson worked together with Washington State Department of Transportation designers to create an alignment that provides a contiguous route between Sprague Avenue in Tacoma and Stone Drive in Pierce County. This system works seamlessly with his proposed city trail system, known as the Gentle Ways Network and,

WHEREAS, Tacoma City Council passed Resolution No. 35922 requesting the Washington State Transportation Commission to name the State Route 16 nonmotorized trail that runs from Sprague Avenue to Stone Drive on the west side of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge the “Scott Pierson Trail”, with the section between Sprague and Snake Lake to be named “Scott’s Way” and,

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Community Council passed Resolution No. R2003-104 requesting the Washington State Transportation Commission to name the above-mentioned trail in Mr. Pierson’s honor as well;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Transportation Commission does hereby approve the request to name the SR 16 nonmotorized trail in honor of deceased Pierce County resident, avid cyclist and trail proponent, Scott Pierson, the “Scott Pierson Trail” with the section between Sprague Avenue and Snake Lake to be named “Scott’s Way” and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Transportation shall forward this resolution to the Olympia Design, Tacoma Project Engineer, and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge offices so they may include appropriate trail signage in their HOV projects through Tacoma.

ADOPTED this 16th day of September 2003.

WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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AUBREY DAVIS, Chair

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GEORGE KARGIANIS, Vice-Chair

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DOUGLAS B. MACDONALD  
Ex-Officio Member  
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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JENNIFER ZIEGLER, Administrator

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Assistant Attorney General